

video tapes, CD-ROMs, games, statues, and replicas of White House china. Under the signature, on the lower level, is the library, with more than 200,000 newspaper and magazine clippings regarding Lincoln; more than 5,000 original photographs (including those from Lincoln's own family album); 200 documents signed by Lincoln; 7,000 19th-century prints, engravings, newspapers, and music sheets; 18,000 books; scores of period artifacts and Lincoln family belongings, and hundreds of paintings and sculptures. Here, too, is the traveling exhibit area—most recently the site of the "White House Style" show.

So how did this \$6 million, 30,000-square-foot tribute to Lincoln and interactive multimedia essay on his impact on American life come to be created in a mid-sized northeastern Indian city? In 1905, Arthur Hall was forming an insurance company in Fort Wayne. A great admirer of Lincoln, he wrote to Robert Todd Lincoln, the son whose attendance at the Cooper Institute had provided Abraham Lincoln with a platform for his watershed 1860 speech, for permission to use his father's name. Along with his approval, Todd sent a photograph of his father—the same one that is the basis for the engraving on the \$5 bill today.

The company grew into what is today one of the nation's largest financial services organizations. The Lincoln National Corporation opened its first museum on Lincoln's birthday in 1928. The new museum, now owned by the nonprofit Lincoln National Foundation, opened October 1, 1995, in Lincoln National headquarters—less than a mile from the site of the railroad station where Lincoln, we now know, changed trains on February 23, 1860.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SANCHEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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CELEBRATING LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PITTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Lithuania who will be celebrating their Independence day next Monday. With the passage of each year, Lithuania grows into a more stable, prosperous and Democratic country. To ensure this growth continues in Lithuania and the rest of the Baltic States, the United States must remain committed to supporting the region.

Lithuania is rich in history and has proven its resilience. This country has continually been occupied by rogue regimes which exploited its resources and people. However, the desire for democracy continued to grow within the Lithuanian people. After four decades of suppression, Lithuania finally achieved freedom in 1990 and reestablished the independent Lithuanian state.

I do not think that many Americans paid attention to the recent presi-

dential elections in Lithuania. I wish they would have. They should be proud of the fact that an American citizen was elected the new President. Valdas Adamkus, from my home State of Illinois, is a shining example of the Democratic reforms which have come to this former Soviet state. His election testifies to the desire of the Lithuanian people to do away with ex-Communists and to embrace western ideas.

President Adamkus and his family fled the country as the Communists took over during World War II. After spending part of his teens in a Nazi camp, President Adamkus emigrated to the United States. Here he forged a truly distinguished career as a regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. With the many years spent in America, president Adamkus will be able to bring fresh non-Soviet ideas to government.

Now is the time for the United States to recognize the struggle the Lithuanians have endured for democracy and freedom. On January 16 President Clinton took the first step in realizing the importance of this region of the world. On that day he signed the U.S.-Baltic Charter. While the charter does not contain any security guarantees, it does prove to the Baltics the continuing commitment of the United States to their country. Additionally, the charter commits the Baltic States to democracy, rule of law, free markets and human rights.

However, what the charter should not do is close the door on the expansion of NATO to include the Baltic region. Recently, we have begun to hear that NATO does not need to be expanded. Some fear the expansion will dilute the military alliance which is the essence of NATO. They would rather have the European Union do much of the work for the emerging democracies while leaving NATO to deal with Russia. This is very shortsighted.

What we need to do is focus on the region, providing guidance and support while these countries are developing. The United States should not pull back and leave these countries stranded in a strategic uncertainty. Enlargement, with the need to meet the rigorous military and political standards will continue to promote calm in the region. We need to leave the door open for expansion so that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have a goal to strive towards as they continue to develop.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to congratulate the Lithuanian people on another year of independence. After all their hard work and struggle, they are beginning to reap the rewards. The United States should wholeheartedly embrace Lithuania and the entire Baltic region through the expansion of NATO so these emerging democracies can continue to prosper.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. VISCLOSKEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COX addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of Philippine independence, and to recognize some true heroes of World War II, the Filipino World War II veterans.

Filipino soldiers were drafted into the Armed Forces by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and promised full benefits as American veterans. But those benefits were rescinded by the 79th Congress in 1946. The gentleman from New York (Mr. BEN GILMAN) and I have now introduced a Filipino Veterans Equity Act, H.R. 836, which would restore the benefits promised when these soldiers were drafted into service by the President of the United States and fought side by side with soldiers from the American mainland against a common enemy.

Over 175 of our colleagues have co-sponsored H.R. 836, in support of these brave veterans. A most appropriate way to commemorate the centennial year of Philippine independence is to pass H.R. 836 and restore honor and equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II.

As Congressman of the congressional district which includes more Filipino American residents than any other except for Hawaii, I am very honored to have been chosen as their Representative in Congress. I look forward to participating in the 1998 celebrations commemorating Independence Day and the spirit, resourcefulness, warmth and compassion of the people of the Philippines and of Filipino Americans.

June 12, 1898 is the day the Philippines gained its independence from Spain and June 12 is celebrated in the Philippines as Independence Day by order of President Diosdado Macapagal.

This year, in the Philippines and in the numerous Filipino-American communities in the United States, lengthy celebrations are being prepared that will occur throughout the entire year. In my hometown of San Diego, a civic parade showcasing Filipino culture is among the many events planned to commemorate this milestone.

Historians tell us that the Philippines was "discovered" in 1521 by Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan. In spite of a bloody battle between Filipino freedom fighters and the invaders,

in which Magellan was killed, Spain, for whom Magellan worked, colonized the Philippines and held power for nearly 400 years.

In 1896, Filipinos mustered the courage to bond together to overthrow the Spanish colonialists. Filipino revolutionaries, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, took to the streets of his hometown of Kawit, Cavite, about 15 miles southwest of Manila and proclaimed an end to Spanish rule. The open resistance of the imperial power of Spain led to the Declaration of Independence 2 years later on June 12, 1898, and with it the birth of Asia's first independent nation.

But in real terms, just as Spain slipped out, came the colonizing power of the United States. Spain ceded the Philippines to the U.S., blatantly ignoring the Filipinos' own proclamation of freedom. So, practically, the century of independence is somewhat of an illusion, for the Philippines was a territory and then a Commonwealth of the United States until July 4, 1946. However, Independence Day is celebrated for good reason on June 12 because the victory in 1898 symbolizes to the Filipino people the triumph of political will and physical endurance by Filipinos against foreign control. Today, Filipinos are free and they have proven their quest for freedom in countless battles, most recently as part of the American army in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we award these brave heroes with the recognition they deserve. Let us pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act this centennial year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. ADAM SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ADAM SMITH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARLBORO TOWNSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAPPAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the citizens of Marlboro Township as they commemorate the 105th anniversary of the incorporation of their community. This is a time of celebration and remembrance, a time to celebrate the growth and achievements of Marlboro Township, while remembering the efforts and sacrifices of the good men and women, past and present, who helped make Marlboro Township what it is today.

Beginning as a small group of small rural settlements in the 1600s, Marlboro has grown to be a center of activity and a place to call home for a community of over 30,000 people. Throughout this time of growth, Marlboro has

retained and contributed its own piece to our Nation's history, from being a Dutch and Scottish farming settlement to a battle site for revolutionary war skirmishes; from supporting New Jersey as a rural community to transforming it into a suburban center. In the wake of World War II, Marlboro has made its mark. Now, 150 years later, the township will celebrate its anniversary with rich new traditions, including a time capsule burial and ceremony to offer history to future generations, annual recreation events, concerts and festivities, as well as having speakers on Marlboro's history and other events.

It is fitting that, while remembering the past, they are looking to the future by having children participate in the celebration. A time capsule, as I mentioned earlier, will create a picture for later generations of what the township was like in 1998.

In the years to come, I sincerely hope that Marlboro Township will continue to build on the foundations of the past to ensure a happy and prosperous future for all its residents. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Matthew Scaneppiecco and the Township Council. It is my honor to have this municipality within the boundaries of my district and it is my good fortune to be able to participate in its very special anniversary.

THE MEDICARE VENIPUNCTURE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY IN THE U.S. FLAG CODE

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation correcting an oversight that occurred in the 98th Congress during the establishment of the Federal holiday celebrating the birthday of our Nation's greatest civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is customary during the establishment of official Federal holidays to signify the importance of the date through recognition in the U.S. Flag Code. The U.S. Flag Code encourages all Americans to remember the significance of each Federal holiday through the display of our Nation's banner. The Flag Code reminds people that on certain days every year, displaying the flag will show respect for the people and events that have shaped our great Nation.

I believe the American people should be afforded the opportunity to pay their respects to the memory of Dr. King and all his achievements through the display of our flag on the day we honor him. Of the ten permanent Federal holidays, only the King birthday

lacks this honor, and I believe that as we celebrate Black History Month, it is appropriate to correct this omission.

I would like to offer my appreciation to Mr. Charles Spain, a resident of Houston, which the gentlewoman and I come from. Mr. Spain brought this very important matter to my attention and I am grateful for his diligence and assistance in helping my office to introduce this legislation to correct this error.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Let us continue to honor the legacy of Dr. King and continue to move forward with his dream.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, and I would join the gentleman in cosponsoring this legislation, which I think is an important correction for an honorable gentleman, Dr. Martin Luther King.

I would like to as well, Mr. Speaker, to raise several issues that really are in keeping with Black History Month, in recognition of many of our tried-and-true men and women who served in the Vietnam war. I am certainly a product of that era and I could not find a better time to take a moment to salute those who lost their lives and sacrificed in order that we might be free.

Many people had many things to say about the Vietnam war, but I have nothing to say other than for those who fought and those who lost limbs and were injured and those who lost lives and to their families and loved ones, I salute you, I applaud you, I honor you.

In my district I work extensively with homeless veterans, many of whom are from the Vietnam era. They are no less diminished because of the tragedy of their life, because of some misstep that might have brought them to this point, but they are certainly a part of the honor of those who have served, and my hat is off to them.

I salute those veterans of the 18th Congressional District who served in Vietnam. I certainly am grateful for the ending of that war, and I salute all of the veterans and all of the men and women all over this country who served in this Vietnam war.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I applaud the President today highlighting for America the Patient's Bill of Rights. And I will be supporting that legislation, along with the Venipuncture Fairness Act of 1997. In fact, many of my constituents, many veterans, are in home care, and the home care agencies are now being precluded from going to the homes of homebound individuals and taking vital signs that are necessary for prescription drugs and other various medications and physical needs. This H.R.